(b) positioning the plug in relationship to an opening in a patient's tissue, such that the plug covers the opening, contacts the perimeter about the opening, or both, thereby forming an interface between the plug and the tissue; and

(c) applying a resorbable sealant at the interface to form a closure.

B6 cont.

96. (Amended) A sutureless method of anastomosis comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a stent comprising a first terminus, a second terminus, a third terminus, and an opening at each terminus that fluidly communicate with each other through the interior of the stent, wherein the stent is comprised of material that is resorbable by a patient in up to about 90 days;

(b) inserting the first and second termini of the stent through an aperture into a cavity of a physiologically functioning vessel of a patient, and the third terminus of the stent into a bypass conduit, such that an interface is formed between the vessel and the bypass conduit about the aperture; and

(c) applying a tissue sealant at the interface to attach the conduit to the vessel such that the interface exhibits a tensile strength of at least about 1.3N/cm^2.

REMARKS

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

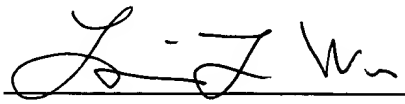
Claims 54, 94, and 95 have been amended to clarify that the invention relates to a stent or a tissue plug comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of ***frozen physiologic saline, polyethylene glycol chemically conjugated to a naturally occurring compound, and a conjugate of collagen and a synthetic hydrophilic polymer***. This is amply supported, e.g., on page 18, line 1, to page 24, line 9. In addition, this is supported by claims 25, 28, 38, 64, 71 and 81 as originally filed.

Claims 69, 70 and 80 have been canceled in order to eliminate redundancy introduced as a result of the above amendment to the claims. Similarly, claims 64, 71, 79, and 81 have been amended to recite proper dependencies. In addition, the term "though" has been replaced with the term "through" in claims 94 and 96 in order to correct these typographical errors.

Thus, no new matter has been introduced, and entry of these amendments is proper. For the Examiner's convenience, the pending claims upon entry of the amendment are listed in Appendix B.

If there are any questions concerning this communication, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned attorney at (650) 330-0900.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Louis L. Wu
Registration No. 44,413

REED & ASSOCIATES
800 Menlo Avenue, Suit 210
Menlo Park, California 94025
(650) 330-0900 Telephone
(650) 330-0980 Facsimile
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APPENDIX A
(REDACTED CLAIMS INDICATING AMENDMENTS MADE)

Please amend claims 54, 64, 71, 79, 81, and 94-96 follows:

54. (Amended) A tissue plug for use in sealing an opening in a patient's tissue, comprising a solid object having a platen surface, which is adapted to cover the opening, contact the perimeter about the opening, or both; wherein the solid object is comprised of a ~~non-polyglycolic acid~~ material that is resorbable by the patient in a maximum of about 90 days and that is selected from the group consisting of: frozen physiologic saline; polyethylene glycol chemically conjugated to a naturally occurring compound; and a conjugate of collagen and a synthetic hydrophilic polymer.

64. (Amended) The plug of claim 54, wherein said resorbable material is selected from the group consisting of saline~~, polyethylene glycol,~~ and blood plasma.

71. (Amended) The plug of claim ~~70~~ 54, wherein the ~~polyethylene glycol-containing compound comprises a~~ material is polyethylene glycol ~~that is~~ chemically conjugated ~~with~~ to a naturally occurring compound.

79. (Amended) The plug of claim ~~70~~ 71, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 100 to about 20,000 daltons.

81. (Amended) The plug of claim ~~80~~ 54, wherein the ~~collagenic~~ material ~~comprises~~ is a conjugate of collagen ~~that is chemically conjugated to~~ and a synthetic hydrophilic polymer.

94. (Amended) A sutureless method of anastomosis comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a stent comprising a first terminus, a second terminus, a third terminus, and an opening at each terminus that fluidly communicate with each other through the interior of the stent, wherein the stent is comprised of a ~~non-polyglycolic acid~~ material that is resorbable by a patient in up to about 90 days and that is selected from the group consisting of: frozen

physiologic saline; polyethylene glycol chemically conjugated to a naturally occurring compound; and a conjugate of collagen and a synthetic hydrophilic polymer;

(b) inserting the first and second termini of the stent ~~thought~~through an aperture into a cavity of a physiologically functioning vessel of a patient, and the third terminus of the stent into a bypass conduit, such that an interface is formed between the vessel and the bypass conduit about the aperture; and

(c) applying a tissue sealant at the interface to attach the conduit to the vessel.

95. (Amended) A sutureless method of sealing an opening in a patient's tissue comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plug comprised of a ~~solid non-polyglycolic acid~~ material that is resorbable by the patient in a maximum of about 90 days and that is selected from the group consisting of: frozen physiologic saline; polyethylene glycol chemically conjugated to a naturally occurring compound; and a conjugate of collagen and a synthetic hydrophilic polymer;

(b) positioning the plug in relationship to an opening in a patient's tissue, such that the plug covers the opening, contacts the perimeter about the opening, or both, thereby forming an interface between the plug and the tissue; and

(c) applying a resorbable sealant at the interface to form a closure.

96. (Amended) A sutureless method of anastomosis comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a stent comprising a first terminus, a second terminus, a third terminus, and an opening at each terminus that fluidly communicate with each other through the interior of the stent, wherein the stent is comprised of material that is resorbable by a patient in up to about 90 days;

(b) inserting the first and second termini of the stent ~~thought~~through an aperture into a cavity of a physiologically functioning vessel of a patient, and the third terminus of the stent into a bypass conduit, such that an interface is formed between the vessel and the bypass conduit about the aperture; and

(c) applying a tissue sealant at the interface to attach the conduit to the vessel such that the interface exhibits a tensile strength of at least about $1.3N/cm^2$